(b) what was the expenditure incurred by Ministers and their personal staff on foreign travel, telephone at the office as well as in the residences, domestic travel, staff cars, renovation of rooms during the last three years, month-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a tendency of the expenditure being increased on these heads over the years; and

(d) if so, whether any directions will be issued to curb the expenditure on these heads?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDABARAM): (a) The Government had issued guidelines on Expenditure Management —fiscal prudence and austerity on 17th June, 1996. It is these guidelines which were reported in certain sections of the Press on 18th June, 1996.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Instructions already exist to curb wasteful spending on the heads of expenditure mentioned in parts (b) & (c) above.

बैंक आफ इंडिया की शाखा में स्टाफ आफिसर का निलम्बन

2393. **श्री रामदेवे भण्डारी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आसफ अली रोड, दिल्ली स्थित बैंक आफ इंडिया की शाखा में किसी स्टाफ अधिकारी को हिन्दी भाषा का समर्थन करने के लिए निलंबित किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Maternal and Child Health Services in Gujarat

2394. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maternal and child health services are available in all the villages and district headquarters of Gujarat;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many villages and districts do not have these services; and

(d) by when, Government propose to make available these services in all the villages and district headquarters in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBQL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Maternal and Child Health Services are provided through sub centres at 5000 population. These sub-centres are responsible for providing all services to mothers and children in each village in the catchment area of one sub-centre.

Loan by IDBI to Essar Group

2395. SHRI KANAK SINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has an exposure of over 30 per cent of its networth in the Essar Group;

(b) whether the IDBI recently extended further loan of Rs. 80 crore to the Essar Group despite the institution alleging the group with unsatisfactory funds management and financial indiscipline;

(c) whether the Rs. 80 crore loan was extended to Essar despite the fact that IDBI had failed to recover a long overdue loan of Rs. 107 crore from the group;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measure taken by Government to have the matter fully investigated by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it along with other participating institutions had provided the additional loan to finance the over run in the capital cost of project to enable the Essar Group to complete the project in which institutions had stakes. Suitable conditions for

strengthening of financial management were stipulated by IDBI while sanctioning the loan. The Group was regular in meeting its financial commitment to IDBI till the projects under implementation recorded cost overrun and Group faced liquidity crunch. With the financing of cost overrun being tied up, the overdues have since been cleared.

(d) IDBI has reported that the assistance was sanctioned to the Essar Group by it along with other financial institutions on merits.

(e) Does not arise.

Low priority of Aids by Government

2396. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the priority given to the Anti-AIDS campaign;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that low priority has been given to AIDS patients as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for an Airport at Gulbarga District in Karnataka

2397. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to have an airport at Gulbarga district in Karnataka;

(b) whether the officials of the Ministry have visited the district and held discussions with State Government officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Government of India has given its 'No objection' to the develoment of an airport at Gulbarga by the State Government of Karnataka out of their own resources. A preliminary report has been prepared by a team consisting of officials of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and State Government after inspecting the site earmarked for the construction of the airport.

Increase in debt Liability

2398. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's debt liability has increased tremendously during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details of debt liability in respect of different types of loans and credits incurred by the country during the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) what are the main factors responsible for this increase?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) As per the latest available estimates, after reaching a peak of USD 99.0 billion on 31.3.95, external debt declined to USD 93.8 billion on 30.9.95.

(b) Breakup of external debt of the country during the last three years is enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) Recent changes in debt outstanding denominated in US Dollars is mainly due to variation in US Dollar exchange rates vis-a-vis other major currencies.

Statement

Break-up of India's external debt during the last three years

(US Dollar Million)

		31.03.1994	31.03.95 (Provisional)	30.09.1995 (Provisional)
1.	Multilateral	26263	28542	28267
2.	Bilateral	17450	20270	19112